

In Europe, with the end of the Cold War, we have unfortunately seen a resurrection of racist attitudes and activities that had not been eradicated with the defeat of Nazism, just driven underground.

In Russia, a nation whose past has seen terrible instances of anti-Semitism both in the Tsarist and Communist eras, anti-Semitism had seemingly been exiled to the pages of rabidly nationalistic newspapers catering only to the political fringes. Unfortunately, anti-Semitism has now come in out of the cold into more comfortable confines—specifically into the halls of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament. In fairness, I should say that anti-Semitism has found refuge in the ranks of one particular political party in the Duma—the Communist Party. Last October, at two public rallies, a Communist Party member of the Duma, Albert Makashov, threatened “the Yids” and other “reformers and democrats” with physical retribution for allegedly causing Russia’s current problems.

Incidentally, I have seen films of Mr. Makashov’s performance. It is quite sobering.

When conscientious members of the Duma attempted to censure Mr. Makashov, the Communist Party majority voted down the resolution, and substituted a watered down resolution condemning ethnic hatred in general.

In early December, at hearings in the Duma, Communist Party member and chairman of the Defense Committee, Victor Ilyukhin blamed President Yeltsin’s “Jewish entourage” for alleged “genocide against the Russian people.” In response to the public outcry, both in Russia and abroad, Communist Party chairman Zyuganov explained that the Party had nothing against “Jews,” just “Zionism.”

Mr. Speaker, it would be hypocritical for me or any other member of this body to pretend that racism and anti-Semitism do not occasionally rear their ugly heads in our own political process. However, the leadership of the two major American political parties consistently rejects racist or anti-Semitic individuals as officeholders or candidates for office. For instance, the national Republican Party leadership has disassociated itself from a former member of the Ku Klux Klan running for office on the Republican Party ballot in Louisiana. Similarly, when a local Klan leader in California ran for Congress on the Democratic Party ticket a few years ago, the national party leadership repudiated his candidacy and refused to support him. That is why it is so disappointing to see the leadership of the Communist Party in Russia attempt to rationalize anti-Semitic statements made by its members.

Incidentally, I should add that since these incidents Mr. Makashov and Mr. Ilyukhin have stated that in the next parliamentary elections they will run on a ticket separate from the Communist Party.

In any event, I believe the Congress should unequivocally condemn the anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma. With this in mind, today I am introducing, along with Mr. HOYER, Mr. WOLF, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SALMON, a resolution which condemns anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma while commending actions taken by fair-minded members of the Duma to censure the purveyors of

anti-Semitism within their ranks. In addition, this resolution commends President Yeltsin and other members of the Russian Government for their forceful rejection of such statements. Finally, this resolution reiterates the firm belief of the Congress that peace and justice cannot be achieved as long as governments and legislatures promote policies based upon anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join us in support of this resolution.

#### THE CARE GIVERS TAX REDUCTION ACT

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Care Givers Tax Reduction Act, which will update the Dependent Care Tax Credit to more accurately reflect the costs of providing care to loved ones.

A great deal has happened in this country since 1982, including the price working families pay to care for their children or aging parents. While the cost of quality care has dramatically increased, the amount families can take as a tax credit has eroded during the past seventeen years. In fact, inflation has eroded 60 percent of the value of the current credit since it was last adjusted. It is time for Congress to update the tax credit to more accurately reflect the true costs of providing care for families in our districts.

Our workforce is rapidly changing and middle aged adults are becoming members of the sandwich generation—providing care for both their children and their aging parents. Currently, the federal tax credit available to provide financial assistance for care is the Dependent Care Tax Credit. This credit is currently non-refundable so families with no tax liability are not able to benefit from the dependent care tax credit.

The tax credit has not been adjusted for inflation since 1982. Currently, the tax credit only allows taxpayers to use the first \$2,400 of expenses for one child or dependent and the first \$4,800 of expenses for two or more children or dependents. These levels are woefully low and do not reflect the real costs in our districts. The Care Givers Tax Reduction Act of 1999 will update this credit and raise the levels to more accurately reflect the cost of providing care—\$4,000 for one child or dependent and \$8,000 for two or more children or dependents. Finally, my legislation ties future amounts of the tax credit to inflation.

Furthermore, my legislation would allow the maximum tax credit of 30% to families with an adjusted gross income of \$18,000. For every \$3,000 more of adjusted gross income, the percentage of the tax credit would be reduced by one. The phaseout would end at 12% for families earning over \$69,000 in adjusted gross income. Under my proposal, a family of four with two children in child care earning \$32,000 will see their taxes reduced by \$2,000. My legislation would not diminish any credit a family currently receives but would allow low and middle income families to re-

ceive more for providing care to their children and aging parents.

This legislation will provide much needed financial assistance to working families for their child care needs. For example, Elaine, a single mother in Rhode Island, earns \$28,000 a year as a clerk for a local utility company. Her salary puts her just above the amount with which she would be eligible for assistance from the state to help pay for the child care needs of her two children. Unfortunately, the weekly cost for quality care for her two children amounts to more than \$200. Assuming her children are in day care for 52 weeks of the year, her child care costs would amount to over \$10,000. This situation occurs far too frequently, with parents earning too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to afford quality child care without any assistance.

Currently, Elaine would receive the maximum tax credit of \$1,440 to help her pay for child care expenses. However, if she had no tax liability, which is often the case with lower income workers, she would not be able to receive a refund for her expenses. Under my legislation, Elaine would be eligible for a refundable tax credit of \$2,080.

This legislation will make child care more affordable for Elaine’s family and other working families of our country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in support of updating this tax credit so more families can benefit.

#### EAGLE SCOUTS HONORED

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues, twenty-seven outstanding young individuals from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, who have completed a major goal in their scouting career.

The following young men of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois have earned the high rank of Eagle Scout in the past months: Christopher Jesionowski, Gerald Reid, Jr., Charles R. Dattilo, David W. Kurzawski, Kenneth R. Cechura, Matthew J. Tiffany, Carl Marcanti, Adam Ramm, Daniel David Grabacki, Brian T. Meyer, James Joseph Pesavento, Andrew Paul Marhoul, Corey G. Zadlo, Joshua S. Anderson, Jacob P. Anderson, William (Bill) Skobutt, Gregory Prawdzik, Mark Tatar, Jason M. Wolff, Richard J. Michals, Matthew A. Nemchausky, Tomasz Sokolowski, William F. Urso, Eric Michael Dusik, Paul Mervine, Preston Gale, and Keith Klikas. These young men have demonstrated their commitment to their communities, and have perpetuated the principles of scouting. It is important to note that less than two percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by these fine young men, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the above scouts for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the Rank of Eagle.

Let us wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOLYARD SAFETY ACT

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, in May 1998, Kip Kinkel of Hillsborough, Oregon showed up on his school grounds with a firearm, was expelled and sent home. He was not detained for a psychological evaluation or placed in custody to protect his innocent classmates. The following day he showed up at school again with a gun, shot several students, and returned home where he killed his parents. Three years ago, a Moses Lake, Washington middle school student brought a gun to school and killed two students and a teacher. Weeks ago, a student showed up at Stanwood High School in Washington with a loaded weapon, where fortunately there were no injuries to fellow students.

These tragic stories demonstrate the need for our schools and communities to have in place a policy to protect our children from gun violence in our schools. Expelling youths once they have brought a gun onto school grounds is not enough, as the tragic story of Kip Kinkel illustrates. Who knows how the outcome might have been different had Kip been detained in protective custody or given a psychological evaluation to determine whether he was indeed a threat to the community? Our laws are very clear with respect to possession of firearms. It is a crime under both State and Federal laws to have firearms on school grounds. However we have failed to address the underlying issue—many of our youths have serious problems and are a danger to themselves and others. When an adolescent disobeys the law or threatens the safety of other students, it is our responsibility to help that child before he or she commits any further crimes and to minimize risks to the community. These youths must be detained and their crime must be taken seriously.

For this reason, Representative PETER DEFAZIO and I are reintroducing the Schoolyard Safety Act, our legislation from last year encouraging states to pass measures holding juveniles for at least 24 hours if they bring guns onto school grounds. Rather than create further burdensome regulations or mandates, we leave the authority and accountability in the hands of those closest to the situation, while providing the funding necessary for states to implement these protective programs. This funding could help pay for holding centers, psychological evaluations, or other preventative measures decided on by those closest to the danger—teachers and school officials whose primary responsibility is educating our children, and who have been forced to take on the role of providing for their physical safety instead.

The people of Springfield, Oregon know all too well how easily crime can break the heart of a community. Every man, woman, and child in that town had the right to expect to live on

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a safe street and send their children to safe schools. Children who learn in fear are learning the wrong lessons. It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to prevent a horrible tragedy like this from happening again.

# WELLTON-MOHAWK PROJECT TRANSFER

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to transfer title to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District in Yuma, Arizona from the Federal Government to the project beneficiaries. It pleases me to say that I am supported in this effort by my Arizona colleagues, Congressmen STUMP, KOLBE, and HAYWORTH and that Arizona Senator JON KYL has introduced identical legislation in the other body.

Last Congress, similar legislation was passed by the Senate, but it failed to receive the consideration of this chamber, Senator KYL and I continued our work with representatives of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and the Bureau of Reclamation, and this bill is a product of that effort. It is in accordance with the administration's policy framework for such title transfers.

I urge my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to act favorably on this measure early on in this first session, so we can move forward with the project transfer.

# THE CHILD CARE WORKER INCENTIVE ACT OF 1999

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Care Worker Incentive Act, which will create educational opportunities for those who are for our youngest children—our child care workers.

Quality and affordable child care is extremely important for the healthy development of all children. An increasing amount of research confirms that responsive child care is essential to the positive development of the brain. In fact, recent studies by the University of Chicago show that a child's intelligence develops equally as much during the first four years of his or her life as it does between the ages of four and eighteen.

In order to ensure quality in child care we need dedicated and well-educated child care workers. Unfortunately, the field has historically had a significant problem attracting and retaining these quality workers. Nationally, child care teachers earn an average of \$6.89 per hour or \$12,058 per year, only 18 percent of child care centers offer fully paid health coverage for teaching staff and one-third of all child care teachers leave their centers each year.

I was honored to join President Clinton, Vice President GORE and First Lady Hillary Clinton

*February 24, 1999*

at the White House Conference on Child Care in October of 1997. At the conference, we discussed many innovative approaches to improving quality child care for the children of our country. One of the programs highlighted at the conference was the T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood Project in North Carolina.

Shortly thereafter, I visited Kidworks, a child care center in North Carolina where several child care workers have been involved in the T.E.A.C.H. Project. I can attest to the success of this program in raising the education levels of child care workers in North Carolina and, by doing so, has improved the quality of child care for countless children in that state. The T.E.A.C.H. Project provides scholarships to child care workers in return for a commitment from the teacher that they will remain in the child care field for a certain amount of time. Scholarship costs are based on a partnership and are shared by the T.E.A.C.H. Project, the child care center and the teacher. Because of the increased education, the children in the care of T.E.A.C.H. Project participants receive better quality child care. If they complete their educational goal, participants receive a salary increase, through either a raise or bonus.

There have been great results with this program. Over 2,200 child care providers have completed their state's Early Childhood Education Credential on a scholarship from the T.E.A.C.H. Project which translates into a better educated workforce. Participants in the associate's degree program have received, on average, a 30% increase in compensation at the end of the four years of participation as a T.E.A.C.H. associate's degree scholarship, which means a better paid workforce. In addition, participants in the associate's degree program have less than a 10% turnover rate per year, as opposed to the statewide turnover rate of 42%. Of those participants in the bachelor's degree program, there has been a 0% turnover rate. This low rate means less tumultuous adjustment for children and thus, better quality child care. All indicators point that the T.E.A.C.H. Project has made a difference to increasing the educational levels of child care workers, increasing their pay and lowering turbulent turnover rates.

Last year, I visited a day care center in Rhode Island where I met with Judy Victor. Judy is a day care provider who expressed to me her concerns with the rapid turnover among her employees. She said, "You must be able to afford good people. If you get someone good, the low pay drives them out."

After hearing Judy's thoughts and after viewing the success of the T.E.A.C.H. Project, I have introduced the Child Care Worker Incentive Act. This legislation would create similar scholarship programs throughout the nation. These child care scholarships will provide tuition assistance to child care workers who have a demonstrated commitment to children and a career in child care. The legislation provides great flexibility to states to design programs which most appropriately fit the needs of the children in their state.

Among other provisions, the legislation requires each state's scholarship program to have the following components.